

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /126 W
-----242159 030177 /67

P R 241630Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0244
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 1465

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, PFOR, BR
SUBJECT: DUTCH FONMIN VISITS BRAZIL--URENCO URANIUM
PROBABLY IS THE REASON

REF: THE HAGUE 932

1. SUMMARY. DUTCH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL MADE A QUICK TRIP TO
BRASILIA ON FEB. 20 AND 21, WITH THE APPARENT PURPOSE OF DIS-
CUSSING WITH THE GOB THE QUESTION OF URENCO FUEL FOR BRAZIL.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, VON DER STOEL SAID THE DISCUSSIONS
DID NOT REACH A FINAL UNDERSTNDING, AND THEY WOULD CONTINUE
IN THE NETHERLANDS WITH FONMIN SILVEIRA. SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT, IF IN THE ABSURD HYPOTHESIS THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN
AGREEMENT WERE EMBARGOED, BRAZIL WOULD DEVELOP AN EXCLUSIVELY
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NATIONAL PROGRAM WITHOUT SAFEGUARDS. IN PUBLIC VAN DER
STOEL SEEMED TO RESPECT THE GOB'S PRIOR CAVEATS ABOUT THE SCOPE
OF THE DISCUSSIONS (E.E., NOT TO INCLUDE THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN
AGREEMENT.) END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 19 THAT DUTCH FON-
MIN VON DER STOEL WOULD TRAVEL TO BRAZIL ON FEB. 20. THE

MINISTRY, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SAID THE VISIT RESPONDED "TO THE DESIRE OF THE DUTCH MINISTER TO CONVERSE WITH MINISTER AZERADO DA SILVEIRA," AND THE PURPOSE WAS "TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF BILATERAL INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES." A FONMIN SPOKESMAN, ASKED IF THE PROBLEM OF URENCO EXPANSION WOULD BE DISCUSSED, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO (FEB. 20), SAID THIS WOULD OCCUR "ONLY IF THE DUTCH CHANCELLOR RAISES THE SUBJECT." THE SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED WHETHER THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WOULD BE DISCUSSED. HE REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT THE AGREEMENT "IS A SUBJECT IN THE EXCLUSIVE PURVIEW OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES. THUS IT SHOULD NOT BE THE OBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES." ACCORDING TO FOLHA DE SAO PAULO (FEB. 21), FONMIN SILVEIRA EXPRESSED A SIMILAR VIEW THE NEXT DAY, BUT ADDED THAT "BRAZIL IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE NUCLEAR QUESTION IN ITS GLOBAL TERMS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD." SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY SAID ALSO THAT VAN DER STOEL'S VISIT WAS UNEXPECTED, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS PART OF A LARGER PICTURE THAT SHOWS INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION.

3. ON TUESDAY, FEB. 22, CORREIO BRASILENSE REPORTED THAT VAN DER STOEL, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH FONMIN SILVEIRA, SAID:

(A) ASKED ABOUT WHETHER THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, VAN DER STOEL SAID: "I DID NOT ADDRESS THE SUBJECT, NOR DID I COME HERE FOR THAT."

(B) SUMMARIZING THE MEETING, VAN DER STOEL SAID: "WE DISCUSSED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MY COUNTRY AND BRAZIL. WE DISCUSSED ALSO THE NORTH-SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS. AT MY REQUEST, THE QUESTION OF THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM WAS RAISED IN A VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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FRANK AND FRIENDLY WAY, A TONE WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED ALL OUR CONVERSATIONS. THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY USEFUL FOR THE BEST MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR COUNTRIES. I HOPE TO CONTINUE THESE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS. I KNOW THAT MINISTER AZEREDO DA SILVERIRA IS A VERY BUSY MAN, BUT I HOPE HE CAN GO TO THE NETHERLANDS TO CONTINUE THEM."

(C) A JOURNALIST ASKED IF THE NETHERLANDS VIEWED WITH INTEREST POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS OF ITEMS IN THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT. FONMIN VAN DER STOEL EXPLAINED: "WE EXPRESSED OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR PROBLEMS. I KNOW THE FIRM POSITION OF BRAZIL AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS. AND I SAID THAT BRAZIL IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE TO IMPEDE THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS."

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4. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DO BRASIL (FEB. 23), FONMIN SILVEIRA,
AT THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE CERMONY FOR VAN DER STOEL, SAID:
-- "ALTHOUGH IT IS VIEWED AS ABSURD THAT IN THE FUTURE (THEY)
WOULD BE ABLE TO BLOCK THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN PROGRAM OF
NUCLEAR COOPERATION, WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED (IN THAT EVENT)
IS THAT BRAZIL WOULD COMBINE ALL ITS FORCES IN A NATIONAL EFFORT
TO ATTAIN THAT SAME TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IT NEEDS. BUT THEN
THIS WOULD BE DONE WITHOUT CONTROLS OF ANY TYPE. AND IT IS
BETTER, IN THEIR OPINION, THAT THERE EXISTS THE SYSTEM OF
FUNCTIONING SAFEGUARDS."
-- THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DUTCH CHANCELLOR WERE "FRANK
AND CONSTRUCTIVE." "IT IS NECESSARY TO POINT OUT THAT WE
SPOKE OF NUSLEAR ARMS, FOR IT IS ABSURD TO THINK OF IMPOSING
BARRIERS TO NUCLEAR TECZNOLOGY. NO ONE CAN IMPEDE THE PROLIF-
ERATION OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE."
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5. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO (FEB. 25) REPORTED THAT VAN DER STOEL
SAID IN RIO DE JANEIRO, AS HE PREPARED TO DEPART BRAZIL,
THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS "VITAL TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE,
FOR AT THE MEETING WITH AZEREDO IN BRASILIA IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE

TO REACH A FINAL UNDERSTANDING.."

6. A BRITISH DIPLOMAT TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT THE FRG THREATENED TO BUILD ITS OWN ENRICHMENT FACILITY TO SUPPLY BRAZILIAN REACTORS IF THE DUTCH BLOCKED URENCO FUEL. THE DIPLOMAT CLAIMED THE DUTCH FEARED SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION, FOR SEVERAL REASONS

,
AND THEREFORE WERE RELUCTANT TO DEMAND CONDITIONS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE GOB.

7. COMMENTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PRIOR CAVEATS ON WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH VAN DER STOEL HAVE OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR EVENTUAL USG-GOB DISCUSSIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S COMMENT THAT THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT WAS NOT TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THIRD COUNTRIES IS ONE MORE PUBLIC AFFIRMATION OF THE GOB'S UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS CERTAIN NUCLEAR ISSUES. BASED ON THE PRESS REPORTS OF VAN DER STOEL'S PUBLIC REMARKS, WE CONCLUDE THAT HE RESPECTED THE CAVEATS PUBLICLY. HE SEEMED DISCREET AND DID NOT SEEK PUBLICLY TO CHALLENGE ANY BASIC BRAZILIAN TENETS.

8. SILVEIRA'S STATEMENT ABOUT BRAZIL'S NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE TO IMPORTED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, THE MOST BLUNT GOB STATEMENT TO DATE ON THIS QUESTION, CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE STAKES IN THE NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS. THE THREAT, THE GOB'S BOLDEST PUBLIC STATEMENT TO DATE ON THIS SUBJECT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, SHOWS GOB CONVICTION, IF NOT ARROGANCE, IN THE STRENGTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ITS POSITION. APPARENTLY THE GOB BELIEVES AT THE SAME TIME THAT SUCH THREATS WILL NOT BE SEEN AS THREATENING BY IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF WORLD
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(OR BRAZILIAN) OPINION.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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